

Land at Rotherdale Farm Throckmorton Worcestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
Archaeology Collective

on behalf of
Evesham Vale Growers Ltd. & R. & L. Holt

CA Project: 6629
CA Report: 18268

June 2018



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CONTENTS

| | |
|--|---|
| SUMMARY | 2 |
| 1. INTRODUCTION..... | 3 |
| 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND..... | 4 |
| 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES..... | 5 |
| 4. METHODOLOGY | 6 |
| 5. RESULTS (FIG. 2) | 6 |
| 6. DISCUSSION..... | 6 |
| 7. CA PROJECT TEAM..... | 7 |
| 8. REFERENCES..... | 7 |
| APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS | 9 |
| APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM..... | 9 |

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 The site, showing location of observed groundworks, previous evaluation trenches and geophysical survey results (1:2,000)



SUMMARY

Project Name: Land at Rotherdale Farm
Location: Throckmorton, Worcestershire
NGR: 397285 250739
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 15 May 2018
Planning Reference: Wychavon District Council planning ref: 17/02105/FUL
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum
Site Code: ROTH 18

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2018 during the excavation of three infiltration test-pits at Rotherdale Farm, Throckmorton, Worcestershire.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In May 2018 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Archaeology Collective Ltd on behalf of Evesham Vale Growers Ltd. & R. & L. Holt, on land at Rotherdale Farm, Throckmorton, Worcestershire (centred at NGR: 397285 250739; Fig. 1). Planning permission for the erection of a glasshouse, offices and plant room, the formation of an attenuation reservoir, the construction of up to five bungalows and associated infrastructure, has been granted by Wychavon District Council (WDC), conditional on a programme of archaeological work being completed (WDC planning ref: 17/02105/FUL, condition 14). Following consultation between Archaeology Collective and Aidan Smyth, Archaeology and Planning Advisor, Wychavon District Council (WDC), it was determined that the programme of archaeological works would initially comprise geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation. Both the geophysical survey (SUMO 2018) and archaeological evaluation (CA 2018a) have been undertaken. Following subsequent consultation between Archaeology Collective and Mr Smyth it was determined that an archaeological watching brief would be required during the excavation of three infiltration test-pits prior to further stages of archaeological mitigation (compliance monitoring and archaeological fieldwork).
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by Archaeology Collective (AC 2018) and approved by Mr Smyth. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014).
- The site**
- 1.3 The development area is approximately 19ha in extent and comprises two agricultural fields, located to the north-west of the village of Throckmorton. The site is bounded to the west by a solar farm, to the north and north-east by further agricultural fields, to the south by an Anaerobic Digester plant and to the south-east by further agricultural buildings. The site lies at approximately 26m AOD at its southern edge, with ground levels gradually sloping up to reach 30m AOD at the northern extent of the site.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Charmouth Mudstone Formation – Mudstone of the Jurassic and Triassic Period (BGS 2018). Superficial

deposits of Wasperton Sand and Gravel Member – Sand and Gravel of the Quaternary Period are recorded across the northern half of the site (*ibid.*). The natural substrate, comprising compact orange-brown sand and gravel with occasional patches of orange-yellow clay, was identified throughout the areas subject to groundworks.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been examined within the WSI (AC 2017) and the site itself has previously been subject to geophysical survey (SUMO 2018) and archaeological evaluation (CA 2018a). The following is a brief summary of information taken from these assessments, along with any publically available information pertinent to the site.

Prehistoric and Roman

2.2 The geophysical survey (SUMO 2018) identified a number of anomalies indicative of probable prehistoric settlement activity within the central and western parts of the site (see Fig. 2). The subsequent archaeological evaluation (CA 2018a) confirmed the presence of a double-ditched enclosure (Fig. 2 [1]) of probable Iron Age to Early Roman (1st to 2nd century AD) date in the central part of the site, a sub-circular enclosure of probable Late Iron Age to 1st-century AD date (Fig. 2 [6]) in the central-western part of the site and three further undated enclosures (Fig. 2 [4], [5] and [7]), in the central parts of the site. One of these enclosures (Fig. 2 [5]) contained two undated curving ditches/gullies, seemingly relating to circular or semi-circular structures. A number of undated postholes, pits and ditches, not identified by the preceding geophysical survey, were identified in the eastern part of the site by the evaluation. The function of these features remains unclear; however they appear to be indicative of settlement activity and may be associated with the prehistoric/Early Roman activity identified to the west.

2.3 In the wider area, a programme of archaeological strip, map and sample excavation undertaken immediately to the south-east of the site by Allen Archaeology in 2013 (AA 2013) identified a small number of Late Iron Age and Roman ditches, probably representing former field boundaries. Further, albeit undated, ditches were identified during a programme of archaeological strip, map and sample excavation undertaken immediately to the south of the site by Cotswold Archaeology in 2012 (CA 2012).

These ditches were cut by later plough furrows, raising the possibility that they may be of earlier (possibly prehistoric/Roman) date.

Medieval

- 2.4 The site is located c. 100m to the north-west of the scheduled medieval settlement of Throckmorton (National Monument 1016938). The remains of denuded ridge and furrow earthworks, visible on aerial photography and LiDAR imagery, have been identified across the majority of the site and suggest that that it formed part of the agricultural hinterland of Throckmorton during the medieval period (CA 2018b). The geophysical survey (SUMO 2018) identified anomalies indicative of ridge and furrow agriculture across the majority of the site and a number of these were identified by the subsequent archaeological evaluation (CA 2018a).

Post-medieval and modern

- 2.5 A plan of the parish of Throckmorton produced in 1784 depicts the principal thoroughfare between Naunton Beauchamp and Throckmorton running through the south-western corner of the site; the road is depicted again on mapping of early 19th-century date, and its course is still detectable, albeit faintly, on available LiDAR imagery (AC 2018). Two further possible former thoroughfares are suggested by historic mapping and LiDAR, running north/south through the eastern half of the site (*ibid.*).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- to monitor the excavation of three infiltration test-pits, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the excavation of three infiltration test-pits;
- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.



4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (AC 2018). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the excavation of three infiltration test-pits (see Fig. 2 for location and extent of observed groundworks). The test-pit locations were agreed during consultation between Archaeology Collective and Mr Smyth and are away from known significant archaeology (identified by the preceding geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation).
- 4.2 Written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIG. 2)

- 5.1 A broadly comparable stratigraphic sequence was observed in all of the excavated infiltration test-pits. The natural substrate, comprising compact orange-brown sand and gravel with occasional patches of orange-yellow clay, was encountered at a depth of between 0.37m and 0.52m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by subsoil, measuring between 0.1m and 0.25m in thickness, which was in turn sealed by topsoil.
- 5.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material was recovered.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the site (see *archaeological background* above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the areas of observed groundworks. This would appear primarily due to the limited nature of the groundworks undertaken and the location of the test-pits, away from known significant



archaeology identified by the preceding geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation (see *paragraph 4.1*).

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

7.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Alison Roberts. The report was written by Alison Roberts. The illustrations were prepared by Esther Escudero and Charlotte Patman. The archive has been compiled by Alison Roberts, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Steven Sheldon.

8. REFERENCES

AA (Allen Archaeology) 2013 *Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Report: Poultry Farm, Long Lane, Throckmorton, Worcestershire*, AA report **2013081**

AC (Archaeology Collective) 2017 *Rotherdale Farm, Throckmorton, Worcestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation (Geophysical Survey, Trial trenching) and Monitoring during Infiltration Test-Pitting*, AC Project ref. **00622A**

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2018 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 14 June 2018

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 *Rotherdale Farm, Throckmorton, Worcestershire: Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample*, CA report **12329**

CA 2018 *Land at Rotherdale Farm, Throckmorton, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation*, CA report **18203**

SUMO 2018 *Land at Rotherdale Farm, Throckmorton, Worcestershire: Geophysical Survey Report*, SUMO Job ref. **12183**

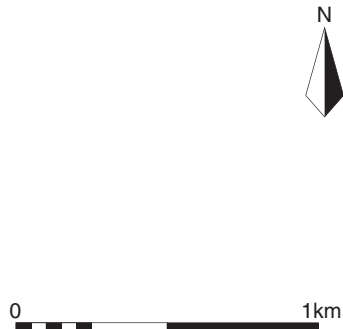
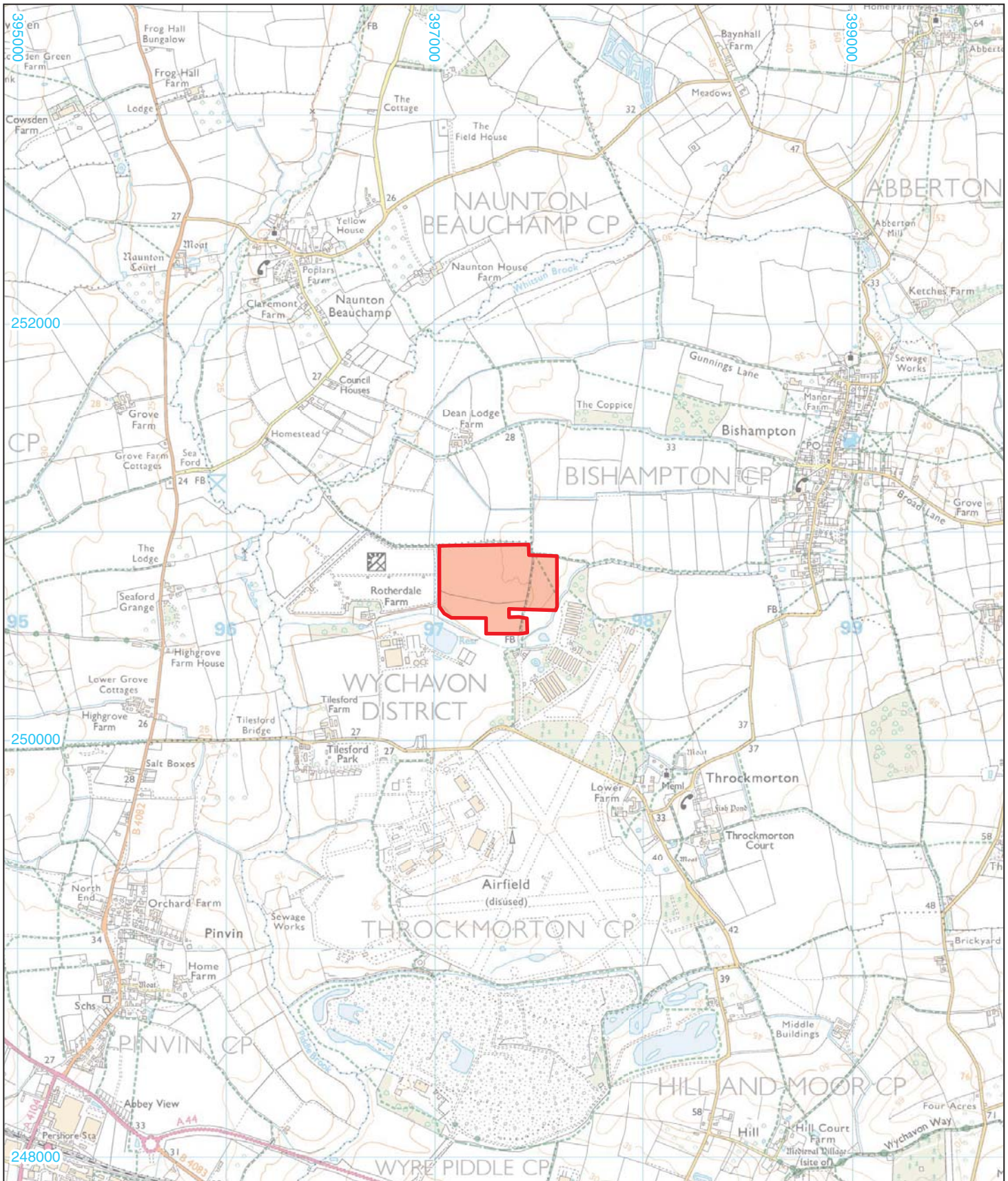


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

| Trench No. | Context No. | Type | Fill of | Context interpretation | Description | L (m) | W (m) | Depth /thickness (m) |
|------------|-------------|-------|---------|------------------------|--|-------|-------|----------------------|
| 1 | 10000 | Layer | | Topsoil | Dark grey brown clay silt | >2 | >1.8 | 0.12 |
| 1 | 10001 | Layer | | Subsoil | Mid brown orange clay silt | >2 | >1.8 | 0.25 |
| 1 | 10002 | Layer | | Natural substrate | Compact orange-brown sand and gravel with occasional patches of orange-yellow clay | >2 | >1.8 | >0.8 |
| 2 | 20000 | Layer | | Topsoil | Dark grey brown clay silt | >2 | >1.8 | 0.3 |
| 2 | 20001 | Layer | | Subsoil | Mid brown orange clay silt | >2 | >1.8 | 0.1 |
| 2 | 20002 | Layer | | Natural substrate | Compact orange-brown sand and gravel with occasional patches of orange-yellow clay | >2 | >1.8 | >0.6 |
| 3 | 30000 | Layer | | Topsoil | Dark grey brown clay silt | >2 | >2 | 0.4 |
| 3 | 30001 | Layer | | Subsoil | Mid brown orange clay silt | >2 | >2 | 0.12 |
| 3 | 30002 | Layer | | Natural substrate | Compact orange-brown sand and gravel with occasional patches of orange-yellow clay | >2 | >2 | >1.48 |

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

| PROJECT DETAILS | | |
|--|--|---|
| Project Name | Land at Rotherdale Farm, Throckmorton, Worcestershire | |
| Short description | An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2018 during the excavation of three infiltration test-pits at Rotherdale Farm, Throckmorton, Worcestershire. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered. | |
| Project dates | 15 May 2018 | |
| Project type | Watching Brief | |
| Previous work | Geophysical Survey (Sumo 2018) Field Evaluation (CA 2018) | |
| Future work | Unknown | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | | |
| Site Location | Rotherdale Farm, Throckmorton, Worcestershire | |
| Study area (M ² /ha) | c.19ha | |
| Site co-ordinates | 397285 250739 | |
| PROJECT CREATORS | | |
| Name of organisation | Cotswold Archaeology | |
| Project Design (WSI) originator | Archaeology Collective | |
| Project Manager | Steven Sheldon | |
| Project Supervisor | Alison Roberts | |
| MONUMENT TYPE | | |
| | None | |
| SIGNIFICANT FINDS | | |
| | None | |
| PROJECT ARCHIVES | | |
| | Intended final location of archive: | Content: |
| Paper | Worcestershire County Museum | Trench recording forms, digital photographic register |
| Digital | Worcestershire County Museum | Digital photographs |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY | | |
| CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018 <i>Land at Rotherdale Farm, Throckmorton, Worcestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report 18268 | | |



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Rotherdale Farm, Throckmorton,
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FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

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 Ordnance Survey 0100031673

| | | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-------------|------------|------------|---|
| DRAWN BY | EE | PROJECT NO. | 6629 | FIGURE NO. | 1 |
| CHECKED BY | DJB | DATE | 13/06/2018 | | |
| APPROVED BY | SS | SCALE@A4 | 1:25,000 | | |



- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Observed groundworks
- Archaeological feature
- Field drain
- Furrow
- Modern

**Geophysical Survey Results
(SUMO Services Ltd 2018)**

- Probable archaeology (discrete anomaly/trend)
- Possible archaeology (discrete anomaly/trend)
- Uncertain origin (discrete anomaly/trend/area of increased response)
- Former field boundary (corroborated)
- Former field boundary (conjectural)
- Agriculture (ridge and furrow)
- Service
- Ferrous
- 1** Feature number



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PROJECT TITLE
Land at Rotherdale Farm, Throckmorton, Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE
The site, showing location of observed ground works, previous evaluation trenches and geophysical survey results

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------|------------|
| DRAWN BY CP | PROJECT NO. 6629 | FIGURE NO. |
| CHECKED BY DJB | DATE 13/06/2018 | 2 |
| APPROVED BY SS | SCALE @A3 1:2,000 | |

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